REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 7 and 8 are amended. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 3-6 under 35 U.S.C. §101. Claim 1 is amended by further reciting that the method is <u>embodied on a recording medium</u>. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §101 is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Biggerstaff (U.S. Patent No. 6,745,384); and claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Biggerstaff in view of Grundy ("Aspect-oriented Requirements Engineering for Component-based Software Systems"). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

In particular, none of the applied references, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest a method for simplifying a programming element, a method for executing a computation on a data processing device, or a method for converting a programming element into a plurality of code blocks, that includes determining at least one propagator for a current stage simplified programming element, the propagator being <u>a form that is matched against terms of an appropriate stage and posting information about projections of one or more of the terms</u>, as recited in independent claims 1, 7 and 8.

Biggerstaff teaches a method and system for anticipatory optimization of computer programs (Abstract). However, and as acknowledged by the Patent Office (Office Action, page 6, lines 6-9), Biggerstaff does not explicitly disclose the propagator being described in the programming element. Biggerstaff merely teaches that the AO system allows a programmer to define various transforms for transforming an IP tree into a tree that facilitates the implementation of various optimizations (Col. 7, lines 13-16). Accordingly, Biggerstaff does <u>not</u> disclose or suggest that the propagator is a form that is matched against terms of an

appropriate stage and posts information about projections of one or more of the terms, as recited in independent claims 1, 7 and 8. As such, Biggerstaff fails to disclose or suggest the features of independent claims 1, 7 and 8.

Moreover, Grundy teaches an aspect-oriented component engineering methodology that addresses issues of component requirements engineering by analyzing and characterizing components based on different aspects of the overall obligation that a component addresses (Abstract). The Patent Office states that it would have been obvious to use the method taught in Grundy for describing the propagator in Biggerstaff. However, even if it was possible to combine Grundy and Biggerstaff, a combination of these references would not arrive at the claimed invention because Grundy does not teach a propagator that is a form matched against terms of an appropriate stage and that post information about projections of one or more of the terms. Accordingly, Grundy fails to cure deficiencies in Biggerstaff in disclosing or rendering obvious the features of independent claims 1, 7 and 8. As such, independent claims 1, 7 and 8, and their dependent claims, are patentable over the applied references. As a result, withdrawal of the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-8 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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